Collaborations to Strengthen Child Development Programs

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Changes in Military Family Landscape

- High operational tempo
- Deployment extensions
- Large Guard and Reserve population deploying
- Social support structures outside nuclear family
- Dual Income Families
- Family isolation
  - Single parent families
  - Loneliness
  - Financial issues
  - Increasing stress

Our challenge: Reaching families to offer sistance and resources specifically designed to help minimize their stress.

Military OneSource.com
1-800-342-9647

Challenges:

Changing Community = Changing Services

- Delivering correct, user-friendly information
- Reaching Guard and Reserve families
- Reaching geo-isolated families
- Reaching the single service members
- Meeting emerging expectations of new generations
- Building a worldwide, trusted communication system to connect with troops and families

"The Right Information, at the Right Time, to the Right People"

Expanding Services

Each of our goals is dependent upon leveraging collaborations for us to be successful.

Key Collaborators

- **Military Community & Family Policy, Office of the Secretary of Defense**
  - Components
    - Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines
    - Reserve and Guard
- **National Institute of Food and Agriculture, United States Department of Agriculture**
  - Land Grant Universities
    - Cooperative Extension – in every county and territory in the United States

United States
Department of Agriculture
USDA

National Institute for Food & Agriculture
NIFA

111 Land Grant Universities

Cooperative Extension Service in every County

United States Department of Agriculture
Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

Land-Grant Colleges and Universities

111
Total

The Mission of the
Military & USDA Extension Collaboration
is to advance the health,
well-being, and quality of life
for military Service members, families,
and others in their communities
through the coordination of research,
education and outreach efforts.

Key Objectives

- **Improve community capacity to support military families**
- **Increase professional development and workforce development opportunities**
- **Expand and strengthen family, child development, & youth development programs**

Community Capacity Building Projects

- Military Community, Family & Youth Extension Programs
- Communications & Outreach
- County-Based Services Directory
- Family Readiness Clearinghouse

Workforce Development Projects

- Internship Program
- Project Y.E.S. – Youth Extension Service
- Professional Development & Technical Assistance for Children, Youth & Family Programs
- Capital Region Child Development Center Lab School System
- University Passport Program

Strengthening Family, Child & Youth Development Programs

- Engaging Faculty Expertise
  - Sabbaticals, colloquia, etc.
  - Focus on program evaluation, military family research, program and curricula development;
- Multi-Disciplinary Partnerships for Strengthening:
  - Child Development
  - Youth Development
  - Family Support

Project Examples

- Health Literacy
- Community Gardening
- Youth Camping
- Comprehensive Deployment Curriculum
- Out-of-school youth programs
- Autism Program Review and Support
- Database for Child & Youth Program Reporting
- Personal Worklife Skills
- National Summit on Military Families

How the Collaboration Grew

- 1987 – Navy and CES Families program
- 1995 - 4-H/Army Youth Development Project
- 2005 – 4-H/Air Force Youth Development Project
- 2007 – 4-H/Navy Youth Development Project

4-H built relationships with Army, Air Force, & Navy in support of the common mission for positive youth development experiences for children and youth wherever they live.

- 2009 – NIFA-MC&FP Expanded Collaboration

By the Numbers

- **23,769 military youth enrolled in 4-H clubs**
- **107,731 youth involved through Operation: Military Kids**
- **101 4-H Military Club Grants awarded to states**
- **1,298 military youth development professionals trained**
- **95 Active Army Installations and Guard & Reserve using Operation READY**
- **75 Extension staff working on Texas Army Bases (Fort Hood, Fort. Bliss, & Fort Sam Houston)**

Benefits

DoD & Components

- High quality workforce to meet demand
- High quality curriculum and materials
- Faculty expertise for research, strategic planning, and evaluation
- Enhanced quality and capacity to

USDA, LGU's, CES

- Engaged faculty
- Curriculum development;
- Increased participation in

  4-H and family educational programs;
- New resources
- Enhanced collaborations
- Multi-state projects

Questions?

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